

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 2-13 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Office Action indicated that claims 3-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of (now canceled) base claim 1. Claims 4-7 remain dependent from claim 3.

Claims 2 and 8 now depend from allowable claim 3 and are thus allowable.

The limitation required by claim 3 has now been incorporated into independent claims 9-11. That is, claims 9-11 now require “wherein said virtual environment is divided into mutually exclusive zones with the or each entity, represented by respective entity-models, being located in one of said zones, and at least one dynamic-model manager is provided, wherein the or each dynamic-model manager comprises: one or more zone managers, each zone manager being arranged to provide dynamic entity-models in an associated zone.” Claims 9-11 are therefore allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 2 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Falacara et al (U.S. ‘263, hereinafter “Falacara”) in view of Mochizuki et al (U.S. ‘684, hereinafter “Mochizuki”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As noted above, claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2 and 8 now depend from allowable claim 3 and are thus allowable. Independent claims 9-11 now require a limitation similar to that

POWERS et al.
Application No. 09/194,317
September 15, 2004

which was indicated as being allowable in claim 3. Applicant submits that the combination of Falacara and Mochizuki fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations now required by independent claims 9-11 and their respective dependents. Namely, the combination of Falacara and Mochizuki fails to teach or suggest "wherein said virtual environment is divided into mutually exclusive zones with the or each entity, represented by respective entity-models, being located in one of said zones, and at least one dynamic-model manager is provided, wherein the or each dynamic-model manager comprises one or more zone managers, each zone manager being arranged to provide dynamic entity-models in an associated zone." Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Falacara in view of Mochizuki be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100